

**Amendments to the Claims**

The following Listing of Claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

**Listing of Claims**

1 – 10 (cancelled)

11. (currently amended) A device for removing proteases from biological fluids and pharmaceutical solutions comprising a housing having a fluid inlet and a fluid outlet, said housing containing a plurality of membranes arranged therein in series, wherein said membranes each consist essentially of a functionalized microporous membrane body containing functional groups ~~capable of chemically coupling with protease inhibitors and~~ chemically coupled to at least one protease inhibitor that is capable of selectively binding a protease selected from the group consisting of an acidic protease, a metalloprotease, a cysteine protease and a serine protease, said serine protease inhibitor being selected from the group consisting of TLCK and p-aminobenzamidine.

12. (cancelled)

13. (previously presented) The device of claim 11 wherein said protease inhibitor capable of binding with an acidic protease is pepstatin; said protease inhibitor capable of binding with a metalloprotease is selected from the group consisting of bestatin, diprotin and

EDTA; and said protease inhibitor capable of binding with a cysteine protease is selected from the group consisting of antipain, chymostatin, leupeptin and E64.

14. (previously presented ) The device of claim 11 wherein said membranes each contain two different protease inhibitors.

15. (currently amended) A method for removing proteases from fluids comprising feeding a protease-containing fluid to the device of any of claims 11, 13[,] or 14 ~~or~~ 16.

16. (previously presented) The device of claim 11 wherein said protease inhibitor capable of binding with a serine protease is selected from the group consisting of TLCK and p-aminobenzamidinium and said functional groups are epoxy groups.